THE EVENING STAR,
With Sunday Morning Edition.

WASHINGTON, D. C.
SUNDAY.....July 16, 1922

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The Evening Star Newspaper Company
Business Office, 11th St. and Pennsylvania Ave.
New York Office: 150 Nassau St.
Chicago Office: First National Bank Building.
European Office: 3 Regent St., London, England.

The Evening Star, with the Sunday morning edition, is delivered by carriers within the city at 60 cents per month; daily only, 45 cents per month; Sunday only, 20 cents per month. Orders may be sent by mail or telephone Main 5000. Collection is made by carriers at the end of each month.

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Strikes and Violence.

Strikers who think to win by violence are strangely perverse in their mental processes. From the beginning of labor organization and the institution of strikes to gain advantages in wages or working conditions violence has always reacted against the workers. Yet this fact does not seem to have been appreciated by those who walk out in obedience to signals from leaders. They persist in seeking to prevent the employment of others to take their places by methods of veritable warfare.

In the present railroad strike the usual course is being followed. Armed men are attacking shops where men are working and attacking guards who have been set to protect those who are engaged in the necessary tasks of railroad repairs. Machinery has been damaged. Shots are fired upon trains, regardless of the fact that entirely innocent persons may be killed by them.

The inevitable reaction from these deeds is to strengthen the public sentiment against the strike. The individual rights of workers are merged into the public rights. The government must act to protect the community from injury. The cycle is always completed by the breakdown of the strike through intervention and the movement of trains by guarded forces.

Every strike is preceded by the assurance by leaders that there will be no violence. The men are enjoined to go to their homes and to remain passive and peaceful while the companies are brought through their losses to agree to terms. But everybody knows that a strike cannot be won by passivity. If men can be hired to replace the strikers and are permitted to work unmolested there is no suspension of operations, there are no extraordinary losses and the companies are under no compulsion to yield.

A strike in an industry essential to the public welfare without violence cannot succeed, and a strike with violence defeats itself.

A Grandfather Golfer.

Out near Chicago a big golf tournament has just been held for the national open championship. The best "pros" in this country and some from abroad were driving and putting for the highest honors possible in the United States. At the end of the first thirty-six holes John Black of Oakland, Calif., led the field with a margin of two strokes. Immediately a cry of astonishment arose, because, forsooth, John Black is a grandfather. True, he is only forty-two years old—according to his own tale, though others aver that he is fifty—but nevertheless, he is a grandfather! Therefore, according to all the laws of sport he had no right to be out in front in a field of younger men, including the crack golfers of the world.

What is there about being a grandfather that causes people to look with somewhat of pity upon a man? There are many grandfathers on the golf links who are playing just as good golf as they did in their twenties and thirties. And there are many grandmothers, too, playing golf and other games who are right up to their earlier form at the sports. It is all a question of the care that has been taken. There are multitudes of older men at twenty-eight than John Black is at even the fifty alleged against him, grandfather or not. The chances are that John Black, if he is fifty, will stay fifty for a long time in the matter of sturdy physical quality.

Good golf is not altogether a question of years. It is a matter of nerve and muscle and training. John Black is probably a natural golfer. He presumably never allows himself to think that his grandfatherhood is a handicap. It would be well for other grandfathers to take a lesson from him. If they think that the existence of a third generation is a sign of age they will get old, for age is largely in the mind, after all.

By taking off trains the railroads added new time table perplexities to those caused by daylight-saving in various communities.

There are two subjects discussed with uninterrupted interest by the public: base ball and the tariff.

War Bonds Above Par.

With liberty bonds selling above par in the New York Stock Exchange those pessimists who a few months ago were predicting the collapse of government securities are properly rebuked. These bonds, sold by immense quantities during the war as a means of financing the United States in its campaign, went to low figures. There was a large liquidation for a time. Many people have bought the bonds in course of the selling campaign without really adequate means for paying for them. Some of them bought them as investments and others for speculation. Some had to sacrifice them very quickly after purchase.

From one cause and another a great volume of bonds reached the market, and in obedience to the natural law of economics the prices fell. But it was always to be noted that there were buyers for all the bonds that were offered. That meant that there was perfect confidence in the future of the securities. Agencies were formed, business establishments were organized for the purchase of these bonds, and undoubtedly a great deal of money has been made by those who bought at the sacrifice prices and are now selling on the rise.

There was one cause for the depreciation of the war bond prices that is to be taken into account. Government issues, though at higher rates of interest than heretofore, were at lower rates than commercial issues. The government got its money at from 3½ to 4¼ per cent, while other bonds were being sold at from 6 to 8 per cent. When these latter issues came into the market many holders of liberties sold, took their losses and turned the proceeds into higher rate bonds, netting a larger yield.

Now the peak of the bond market has been turned. The average interest rate on loan securities is falling, as money is more abundant and therefore cheaper. As the commercial issues and foreign government issues fall in initial interest rate the lower-priced United States securities rise in market price. The present rush to buy war bonds is the natural effect. These securities are exempt from normal taxes and some from super taxes and are now in heavy demand, yielding large profits to those who were shrewd enough to buy in the nineties and in some cases in the eighties. Those who parted with their war issues because they were afraid of the falling quotations have ground now to repent their unjustified timidity.

America's Natural Wonders.

The fiftieth anniversary of the creation of Yellowstone Park was celebrated there Friday with ceremonies of which a feature was a message from the President in which he noted the remarkable development of the national park system in the half century since that first reservation. When it was proposed to preserve the Yellowstone Park area there was much protest. Some people could not conceive the reason for holding so large an area out of settlement and development. There was little thought then for the economic value of the scenic wonders of the west. But men with vision persisted in the plan to save these marvels of nature from spoliation and commercial exploitation. Had not the government undertaken this task doubtless in some cases these wonderlands would have been taken over by private enterprises and shown to the people for profit. It would have been a most lamentable fact if today the Yellowstone, the Yosemite, the Grand Canyon of the Colorado and the other spaces of rare interest and great beauty were in private hands, with turnstiles at the entrances and tickets for sale, all for the profit of a few showmen.

Now over 7,000,000 acres of the choicest scenic areas of the United States, Hawaii and Alaska, as the President points out in his message, are reserved as national parks, dedicated and set apart for all time as pleasure grounds for the people. Annually the number of those who visit these reservations increases, as the fact becomes more widely known that they are unequaled anywhere in the world. It took a long time for our people to realize that America has an unapproached array of natural marvels. Of course, Niagara was recognized as the world's greatest waterfall. Being in the eastern part of the country it is easily accessible, and long before the Yellowstone and the Yosemite and the Grand Canyon were known to more than the few hundred venturesome travelers the great cataract was established as one of the wonders of the world. Now that rails have been laid in the west, and especially that good roads have been built and access to the western scenic splendors has been made easy, Niagara has become somewhat of a commonplace. But still it has no rivals.

Cuba.

Opinion obtains that no envoy to Cuba will be appointed until conditions in the island are improved. At present they are much disturbed.

We are not without excellent arrangements as matters stand for all necessary information respecting Cuban affairs, or means of communication with the Cuban government. Gen. Crowder is on the ground and has been for some time, and has shown himself to be a competent observer and adviser.

A new man would have to shake down in his place—learn the ropes—make acquaintances. Necessarily, he would be at a disadvantage for a while.

Cuba should exert herself to the utmost to put her house in order. The disorder grows less out of post-war conditions—which prevail everywhere—as out of the fierce nature of domestic politics. The Cubans take their politics excitedly. Hence the difficulties that attend a political campaign, and particularly a change of administration.

We need not, and should not, be overcritical in the case of our island neighbor, for whose governmental existence we are responsible. We are having our own difficulties, and know how it is ourselves. The present are disturbed and ticklish times everywhere. Still, as the duty everywhere is to return to stability, Cuba should do her full part toward the realization of good hopes. She has full American sympathy and can command all reasonable American assistance.

Berlin recalls the fact that a political crisis and a financial crisis usually go hand in hand.

A Merger Bill.

A bill is in preparation for introduction in the Senate, the object of which is to effect a merger of the two street railway corporations in this city. It will authorize the Capital Traction Company to purchase and hold stock of other corporations and specifically to acquire the stock of the Washington Railway and Electric Company, together with that of the Potomac Electric Power Company. This is but one of a number of measures of this character seeking to effect the consolidation of the traction systems.

A merger of the two corporations is eminently desirable from the public point of view. It is desired also by the companies themselves, on terms which they respectively regard as fair. But no merger can be righteously effected by compulsion or by the laying down of the terms in the law. The terms of amalgamation must be worked out directly by the two companies. Consolidation is not possible in terms of confiscation.

A merger of the two systems would be of undoubted benefit to the community. It would put all the railway lines of the District upon an equal financial basis and would permit the fixing of fares without reference to the needs of the more extensive and relatively less remunerative system. It would enable the Public Utilities Commission to deal with taxing questions much more effectively. It would remove the menace of insolvency from the largest portion of the present traction equipment, arising from its wide expanse of now comparatively unremunerative trackage. It would probably lead to extensions that are required in the public interest and a better upkeep of the lines generally.

But merger cannot be forced. It is not within the power of Congress to make terms of merger that will cause losses to the owners of either system. However, proposals of merger terms are always in order, whether they come from one side or the other or from Congress as suggestions in the form of bills.

The City of the Angels.

Los Angeles has another murder horror, a woman having been terribly beaten to death by another. This is keeping up the record of violence with a vengeance in the City of the Angels. There has been a long series of shocking crimes, and Los Angeles is beginning to wonder whether its boom, which has been chiefly due to the presence of the biggest combination of moving picture studios in the world, has been really worth while. Not that these crimes are all attributable to the movies. They have not been. But the moral atmosphere of the town seems to have been changed. Los Angeles has figured in the crime news more frequently in the past two or three years than even New York or Chicago, which formerly held the records for abominable misdeeds. What particular germ is it that has been loosed there?

Naturally the motion picture people are greatly distressed by this development. A majority of them are quiet, careful, well behaved folks, intent upon doing their work, and, of course, getting the largest possible pay. Some of them have played fast and loose and gained wide notoriety, which at one stage may have been valuable for publicity purposes, but which has been more harmful than helpful.

The city has a large business foundation quite outside of the motion picture field. It is a prosperous community in its own right. It could do very well without the advertising of the movies. But it has welcomed the studios, has been proud of them, has regarded them as valuable assets. They have drawn many thousands of visitors, intent upon seeing how the pictures are made, and getting "close-up" views of the famous screen performers. But the more conservative citizens of Los Angeles are now wondering whether these things have helped the town after all. It is not likely that there will be any change. The motion picture people will stay on as long as the atmosphere is conducive to good photography and the percentage of sunlight is large enough to outweigh the difficulties of distance. And then, too, a movement is on foot to clean up the movie colonies. That will help a good deal.

Scientists who foresee the total consumption of earth's coal supply may have to advance their figures owing to the interruption of its use because of strikes.

Having largely eliminated fireworks from the Fourth of July, public sentiment is looking for a means of eliminating firearms from the rest of the calendar.

Conference formalities have not produced results to the extent hoped for. Some diplomat may yet be tempted to borrow Mr. Dawes' vocabulary.

The primaries were expected to simplify elections. Now a demand asserts itself for something to simplify the primaries.

SHOOTING STARS.

BY PHILANDER JOHNSON.

Guessing.

Earth has been governed more or less
By people who make bold to guess.
And honor is considered due
Unto the man whose guess comes true—
Men bid him guess and guess again
Till guessing proves too oft in vain.
And then their favor they retract
And trust new minds, no more exact.
But now and then a man draws near,
With speech direct and vision clear,
A man who sets all hearts aglow,
Who says, "I do not guess. I know."

Overenthusiasm.

"I should like to make a big subscription to your campaign fund," exclaimed Mr. Dustin Stax.

"Couldn't think of permitting it," said Senator Sorghum.

"But I should really enjoy it."

"That's the point. I am afraid you'd enjoy it so much you couldn't refrain from talking about it."

Jud Tunkins says he prides himself on being a good listener, except when his daughter's beau tries to play on the piano.

Discrepancy.

That life's scheme was planned aright,
That man is sure to question
Who has a banquet appetite
And a breakfast food digestion.

A Conservative.

"Sometimes the last shall be first," quoted the serious stranger.

"Yes," commented Cactus Jos; "but it's irregular. I never did care for these games where they play deuces wild."

"When I don't understand what a man says," said Uncle Eben, "I waits to see if later on he doesn' say de opposite; showin' dat mebbe his understandin' wasn' any better dan mine."

Politics at Home

Can He Be Drafted?

Some of the republicans of the ninth Virginia district are insisting that Representative Slemp, against his inclinations and announcement, stand again for Congress. The cry from them has the ring, "Help us, Bascom, or we sink!"

Mr. Slemp, who succeeded his father, has seen a service of nearly sixteen years in the House. He is the only republican pebble on the Virginia beach. Many efforts to dislodge him have been made, but all have failed. Two years ago his majority was in keeping with the republican tide then running.

Mr. Slemp is only fifty-two—young for the shelf. He is a man of property, and of force in the business as in the political world. On that account his admirers are reluctant to accept no for answer to their request for longer service. With him in the lead the issue, they feel, will not be in doubt. Under a new leader they will fear the question, "Where are we at?"

There is the old story of the pitcher and the well. Mr. Slemp, it is suspected, does not want to go to the polls as a candidate once too often. He hesitates about closing an interesting and creditable career with a defeat. The ninth district, it is suggested, does not look good to him this year. Hence his decision to retire while his stock is up.

Even if he adheres to his present determination, Mr. Slemp will not pass completely from the scene. He will still have a word to say about republican affairs in the Old Dominion. But passing from the congressional scene at this time will carry a penalty of loneliness. Mr. Slemp as only a looker-on, with the game highly exciting, will not find as his portion an abundance of joy.

Parker and Cox.

The anti-Cox democrats are much encouraged by a feature of the New York situation.

The Empire state democrats are seeking a candidate for governor and another for United States senator. Strong factionism is developing. This calls for a unifier in each case.

A number of names are under discussion. Upstate and downstate are keen for the honors. But neither upstate nor downstate has presented the name of Alton B. Parker.

And yet Judge Parker stands high in the state as man and partisan. His race for the presidency was made under circumstances that precluded success. His opponent was the strongest and most attractive political personality of the day. His party was loaded down with the unpopularity of Bryanism. But he made a dignified campaign, and accepted inevitable defeat without complaint.

Nothing, however, avails him now. He was defeated, and is on the shelf. Nobody thinks of him as a force capable of allaying factionism and showing the way to victory.

So, as the anti-Cox men reason, will be the result in 1924. Gov. Cox will not be called again to leadership. He has had his chance. Granted that in the circumstances success was impossible. He was yet a victim of circumstances, and as such will be unavailable, unattractive, for the democracy's purposes two years hence. A new man will be necessary, and will be chosen.

The Cox men raise their eyebrows at this, and call attention to the fact that whereas Judge Parker was taken from the bench, and is still more lawyer than politician, their leader was taken from the thick of politics, and understands the game as well as any man in America.

Some Senatorial Primaries.

Senatorial primaries are in progress in several southern states, but attracting little if any outside attention. This grows out of the fact that only democrats are in action. The involvements are largely personal. Policies, in a way, are subordinate.

And yet it is of some national concern who comes to the Senate from Texas. The Lone Star state has sent able men to that body in her time. The names of Maxey, Reagan, Mills, Bailey and Culberson are easily recalled. The last-named is still on deck, and desirous of remaining another six years. There would be no doubt of the result if he were able to take the stump. But impaired health obliges him to leave his campaign largely in the hands of others, who, though competent and devoted, cannot altogether take his place. He may win even over this obstacle.

If we turn to Mississippi the names of Lamar and George and Walthall immediately present themselves. In their day those men kept the Bayou state well in the picture. The present contest is to select a colleague for Pat Harrison, a popular, active and audacious man who does scout duty for his party and keeps things lively when he is around. There is a woman among the aspirants, but her chances are not considered good.

There was some flurry in and about Florida while Mr. Bryan's name figured in the talk; but when it became apparent that the newcomer would not be a factor in the equation, but the matter would be decided on a strictly Floridian basis, outside interest fell off. Mr. Trammell was easily renominated, and will be more easily reelected. His one satisfactory term will secure him another. He is in line with his party on all national issues.

In discussing the gravest problems of international economy, the German financial interests do not forget the dyestuffs and the Christmas tree ornaments. The laboratories and the homework shops come out of the war crisis with far more dignity than the court and the camp.

Having concentrated on evolution, Col. Bryan cannot be expected to offer much enlightenment on pressing current problems, owing to the fact that they have nothing whatever to do with the Darwinian theory.

The bootlegger is the artful dodger of the present day, evading the assessors as well as the police.

Next to harmony in their own ranks democrats hope for dissensions in the G. O. P.

Finds Contentment of Swiss Founded in Youth's Education

BY THOS. R. MARSHALL,
Former Vice President of the United States.

LAUSANNE, July 8.

Happy is that people whose past is secure, whose present is safe and whose future is hopeful. Therefore, happy is Switzerland. Both her past and her present are great object lessons to those of us who believe that democracy should rule the world.

In disproof of popular theories that blood is thicker than water, that it is idle to dream over or removing from the political life of a people the virus of race and tradition and that the boundaries of nations are fixed along othnological lines, I cite Switzerland.

Safely set in the heart of the Alps, she is a united republic, with a population part French, part Italian and part German.

The great war proved that it was possible for men to have some ideal higher than the ideal which had been transmitted through his blood. It showed the existence of a supreme ideal in which men of divers races could believe and for which they were willing to stand, although their standing for it should cost them the glorious traditions which had come to them through their veins.

I do not know how much the Frenchman of Switzerland sympathized with France, how much the Italian with Italy or the German with Germany, but I do know that so great were the love and veneration of all them for the Swiss republic that they, though in the very center of the world conflict, kept faith with the republic.

This oldest of modern democracies revals no evidence of decay. Recalling the usual fate of nations, one is amazed to find a people as devoted to their government and as loyal to its principles and as zealous for liberty as was Tell himself.

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The causes of this, however, are not hidden from one seeking them. The philosophic mind of the Swiss is responsible. They early learned that there is a limit to the possibilities of a people, and they realized that a people who seek a multitude of things rarely finds anything that is enduring. In the fastnesses of their mountains they grew content with the biblical curse of earning their bread by the sweat of their brows. They knew that without mineral wealth and without fertile valleys it was vain to hope to become opulent.

Wise enough to understand that if they were to loom large in the commercial activities of the world they would have to enlarge their territory, they also were wise enough to foresee that by enlarging their territory they were likely to introduce elements into the economic and political life of their country which might spell decay as well as prosperity. So at the close of the great war the Swiss refused to receive into the confederacy a part of Austria that contained fertile fields which they were told would bring them bounteous harvests. They feared a propaganda of discontent.

The Swiss disprove the belief that a people cannot stand still that they must go forward or backward. This may be true if only commercial development is sought, but surely it is not true if national virility from generation to generation, century to century, is the ideal of the people. Successful commercial activities increase wealth, but with this increase is apt to come a pandering to luxury.

* * * *

Switzerland discloses that a people can live contented and happy lives without luxury. She proves to the world that life is more than meat and body is more than raiment. Whoever comes here leaves with an admiration for the people, their mode of life and their government. How came this all to pass? Is it true that liberty dwells in the mountains? Do republican institutions thrive best in rarefield air and upon sterile soil?

My talks with the people convince me that the stability of Switzerland grew from the educational processes which have been continued from age to tage. This land, of course, is the greatest example of a practically free democracy. The initiative and referendum are in full flower. If America were as small as Switzerland and offered the same sort of education that the Swiss have received, I should at once withdraw by objection to the initiative and referendum. But that which works well in a restricted area may be altogether valueless in a vast territory. That which is good for men who think alike is likely to be bad for men of divers minds. Every man I meet has a clear conception, not only of questions of moment to the republic, but of those larger questions which involve the world.

This is the one country in Europe the currency of which is at par. The people are not doing the business they would like to do, yet there is bread and meat, oil and wine for every citizen. You hear none of the complaints and regrets so vociferous elsewhere, even in America. The people seem to realize the world's economic condition and, without sullenness, go on leading their contented lives.

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I am convinced that whatever may happen to any other government on earth, Switzerland will remain the free republic of the Alps. My one regret is that every discontented American cannot be transported to this little republic to view its prudence, economy, thrift and self-sacrifice. Many who rail against fate and the United States government would catch a different vision of what life consists and would return home determined to toil and economize and even to suffer in order that their big republic might have none but loyal and contented citizens within its realm.

Aside from their accent, Swiss citizens are much like Americans. They know all about the United States, its wealth and its opportunities for getting on, but they are not envious of us nor are they desirous of changing places with is. Their contentment in view of the frugal lives they are compelled to lead is a marvel even to one, like myself, who is not ambitious to accumulate. It took me some time to grasp the origin of their contentment, but when disclosed, cause was found to be that which has ever proved to be the cause of all that is good in the world as well as of all that is ill.

The cause traces itself back to the education of the youth of the land. You find no parent in Switzerland complaining that time is being wasted by teaching the boy how to compute interest because he will never use his knowledge. We could well emulate the Swiss, whose children are being taught things which need to be emphasized in the public school system of America. They are being taught not only to know but to understand. Their instruction has to do with facts and with the causes of facts. Out of this have come content and quietude. This is the one land where the will of the individual is carefully trained.

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I shall not be bold enough to claim that John Calvin of Geneva, my patron religious saint, was responsible wholly for this, but I am foolish enough to believe that when he proclaimed the sovereignty of God and exerted his influence on the religious life of the republic he did much to create that control of the human will which is so characteristic of the Swiss. That these people believe that the supreme thing is the maintenance of their liberty under their form of government there can be no doubt. When the good of the republic is at stake the interest of the individual is of slight moment and his will has been so trained that as between his country and his own personal advantage, country comes first. How like John Calvin, who impressed his followers with the sovereignty of God, regardless of the individual convenience of humankind.

Yes, here is a people who know, who know why they know; whose individuals, while exercising the largest individual liberty, yet realize that liberty is anarchy if it be not used to serve the republic. Treason is not levying war here.

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Down to Facts on Trade Pacts

FOR the first time in history a handbook of commercial treaties has been prepared, embodying an authoritative and comprehensive analysis of the stipulations contained in the commercial treaties of all the nations. This very important and timely work has been issued by the United States Tariff Commission, and will be of incalculable value to Congress in framing tariff legislation, and in discussion of the proposed ship subsidy.

Up until now there has nowhere been available such information. Even the State Department could not supply reliable information regarding the commercial treaties between this country and other nations, rival in trade.

Perhaps the need for such a handbook has never been better emphasized than by the situation which still exists of two Presidents, Wilson and Harding, refusing to carry out the specific mandates of the shipping act which directed the President to abrogate more than a score of commercial treaties. The ship subsidy bill, ostensibly to arouse a sentiment in favor of which members of the House have gone back home, which Senator Jones of Washington says will surely be passed at this session, but which it is generally believed will not be pressed further until after the elections, contains a provision designed to meet the same purpose as section 34 of the shipping act. This is to force the use of American ships for American cargoes. But there is no legislative effort on foot to remove the section of the existing law which two Presidents refused to obey.

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The handbook of commercial treaties has been in preparation for four years, showing how intricate a job it was to make such a compilation. It was prepared under authority in the act creating a tariff commission, which provides that "the commission shall have power to investigate * * * commercial treaties, preferential provisions, economic alliances," etc.

It is valuable to Congress because it shows how international relations are affected by trade considerations. There is no other publication like it in existence. It gives the trader a digest in English of all the commercial treaties made by this government with any other government, or by any other government with which we trade with any other government, or between any two governments anywhere in the world. It gives also a reference to where the full text of each and every commercial treaty can be found in the original language.

To give a simple illustration of why this compilation is valuable: If we are to make a treaty with Argentina it is important to see what is provided in treaties made by Argentina with other countries, so that we can see exactly what competition we have to be prepared to meet and what, if any, other nation gets preferential consideration or concessions.

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In this handbook the synopses or digests of commercial treaties are so classified as to exhibit the contents of each particular treaty in the most effective manner. For example, all stipulations in treaties granting "most favored nation treatment" or "national treatment" are brought together under those respective heads, so as to show at glance the various subjects in regard to which such treatment is pledged. Similarly, the various subjects expressly excepted from a given treaty, and whether or not and how far the treaty applies to colonial possessions, are conspicuously shown.

Besides being welcomed by members of Congress and public officials, this work is a mine of value to international lawyers of all countries who are directly concerned with the preparation, negotiation, interpretation, execution or violation of commercial treaties, such as legislators, judges, diplomatic and consular officers, customs officers and government officials or private corporations concerned with foreign relations generally or especially with the promotion of international commerce. This places at their command reliable information, checked up by the authorities of each nation, which has never heretofore been obtainable. So that the authentic text of the stipulation in question may be found at a moment's notice. For the United States service alone this is an important economy-efficiency achievement, the actual saving from which in time and money cannot be calculated.

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No digests or summaries of any country's commercial treaties have ever been published, and the original texts are in some cases scattered among masses of obsolete papers, through ponderous volumes in the various languages. There are only two general collections of treaty texts, very voluminous, mostly without English translation, and accessible only in a very few places.

Besides the digests of treaties, this United States Tariff Commission handbook contains chapters setting out the established principles of international law regarding negotiation and operation of treaties, and comprehensive chronological lists of treaties in force between all nations.

This book is an innovation in the literature of international trade. The unsettled state of international relations and the readjustments of commercial policies and tariff arrangements now in process all over the world make this publication as timely as it is original and useful.

Heard and Seen

How would you like to attempt to sell Alexander Graham Bell on the telephone? Or Marconi on radio?

Or attempt to point out to Charles Schwab the desirability of steel, or argue President Harding into entering the government service?

That is what the Post Office Department did last week when it sent Postmaster Merritt O. Chance of the Washington city post office a nice long letter detailing the merits of rest bars for distributing clerks.

"You are aware," said the letter, etc., two pages being consumed in a recital of the desirability of rests for the clerks as they stand at their cases, the plans of the department for welfare, and other pertinent points.

Half a dozen fine photographs of clerks sitting on the various types of "rest bars" were inclosed. It was all very nice, indeed, but——

You see, Postmaster Chance is the man who started this "rest bar" business. The local post office has been experimenting along that line for many months. Chance invented the best type of rest bar.

And those nice photographs were all taken at the Washington city post office.

* * *

The dog as a drain-digger made his appearance during the big storm last week.

Clarence Schooley, superintendent of mails at the city post office, always did think his English setter pup was quite a hound.

But now he is positive about it.

It isn't every man who has a dog sewer-digger, you know.

When the storm broke, the setter pup sprang into the breech.

Or, rather, the sewer.

The rain washed the dirt out of a newly planted tomato bed in Schooley's back yard down into a drain, clogging it, and threatening the overflow of the basement of his Lanier place home.

Then the setter appeared on the scene.

Without hesitation or direction the dog leaped down, and his hind legs began to dig furiously. The mud flew in every direction.

The drain was cleared, and the water began to flow normally.

That is just one reason why Schooley's dog isn't for sale.

* * *

What is the proportion of women in government service here as compared with men?

A casual observer on an early morning street car these days would be thoroughly justified in asserting that the proportion is about 16 to 2.

That was the number counted on one of the long side seats in one of the "box cars" running down Columbia road. Certainly it is true that men are greatly in the minority on the morning cars.

There are women everywhere, old and young, "middle-aged," whatever that means, and all sorts of ages, so one does not have to enter into particulars. They stand cheerfully while the poor male clerk sits reading his morning paper.

The women are getting used to the men keeping their seats. A year or so ago they cast baleful glances at such obdurate ones, oftentimes making audible comments. But now they accept it all as a part of the scheme of things.

The Civil Service Commission tells me that the proportion of women to men in federal service here is 65 per cent of the total, not 300 per cent. That may be true, but I still hold to the 16 to 2 ratio. Get on a car at 7:30 any morning and see for yourself.

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In listening to Italian singers on the records one is likely to get the idea that an Italian could understand every word uttered.

But my barber tells me differently.

He comes from sunny someplace over there. Like all of his race, he must be accepted as an authority on opera. He comes from the land of Verdi, Mascagni and Leoncavallo. That is his passport.

"An opera might as well be sung in Italian as not," he was told, "because when it is sung in English you cannot understand the words anyway. I suppose you Italians can understand your singer perfectly."

He looked puzzled.

"You can, if you understand the words," he said.

CHARLES A. TRACEWELL.

Fifty Years Ago in The Star

Fatal Fall of a Derrick.

"At about eight and a half o'clock this morning," says The Star of July 9, 1872, "a frightful accident took place on the new State Department building on 17th street just south of the Navy Department, by which two persons were killed instantly and five wounded, one or more seriously. There were three very large derricks, each 90 feet high, used in hoisting stones and lowering them to their beds on the walls. These three derricks were ranged with their line from east to west, and were all connected together at their tops by a single guy rope of wire, so that if one fell all must inevitably fall. At the hour mentioned above a large stone, weighing about six tons, was suspended from one of the derricks, that at the extreme east, and was being lowered to its place on the wall, when one of the guys fastened on the east was drawn from its socket and the three derricks surged to the westward and came down in that direction with a terrible crash among the workmen, scattering death and destruction in their fall.

"Jeremiah Darby, a hod carrier, was standing on a frame center on which an arch was being turned, and was struck by the timbers and literally driven down through the framework upon which it stood into the basement, ten or twelve feet below. He was shockingly mangled and crushed. Robert S. Collins, a bricklayer, a deaf mute, was struck by some of the ropes and timbers and had his right arm broken and received a bad cut in the head, but it is hoped and believed his skull is not fractured. Henson Dyson, a colored man, driver of one of the stone wagons, was seated on the bank when the crash came, and the top of one of the derricks struck him on the head and fractured his skull. A man whose body had not been identified up to 10 o'clock was walking on the east side of 17th street when some of the falling timbers struck him full in the face, killing him outright."

A coroner's jury later in the day found a verdict that the accident was due to unforeseen causes and that no blame could be attached to contractors or others.

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Democrats Nominate Greeley and Brown.

The democratic national convention met in 1872 at Baltimore on the 10th of July and indorsed the nomination of Horace Greeley for President, he having been named already by the independent republicans in opposition to Grant. B. Gratz Brown of Missouri was named for Vice President. The Star of July 11, 1872, commenting on the enthusiasm of the convention, said:

"The shout that went up when his name was mentioned was not prompted by any sympathy in democratic breasts for Mr. Greeley or his ideas. It was the yell of shipwrecked mariners at sight of a sail that promises to carry them to dry land. Will it? Is the Greeley tub seaworthy to bear its unwonted and turbulent freight? The Greeley men are very sanguine, there is no doubt about that. One was told at Baltimore again and again, between drinks, that there is a 'ground swell' and an 'uprising of the people'; that 'the ball is in motion'; that the 'silent vote' is coming out, and 'the trumpet tones of the popular voice are being raised,' and all in behalf of Horace Greeley. That he is to sweep every southern state but South Carolina; that he is to carry such republican states of the west as Indiana, Ohio, Michigan and Illinois; and New Hampshire, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, etc., in the east; in short, that he is to be elected by such a whirl as that which put Harrison and Taylor into the White House. Now are these sanguine gentlemen exhilarating in a fool's paradise, or have they reason for the faith that is in them? Where is the evidence of this popular uprising?"

Only eight states voted for the Greeley-Brown electors, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Missouri, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and West Virginia, casting 63 electoral votes against 286 given to Grant and Wilson.

DIGEST OF FOREIGN PRESS

Erzberger's Secret.

ROME.—The Paris correspondent of the Corriere d'Italia comments on the mystery of Erzberger's life and subsequent assassination. He says:

"What were the reasons that caused Erzberger's assassination? While the press in general is busy with the case against the assassins of the leader of the German left, it is interesting to examine the man, his works and his enemies.

"Erzberger had tremendous foresight; his enemies accuse him of having lost all hope of victory at the time of the Marne battle; they pretended that this peasant from the borders of Lake Constance, near to Switzerland and Alsace, detested Prussia and had often betrayed her during the war; his work within his country showed him to be anti-German and—according to his enemies—he tried to sow discord in Germany, inciting the left against the right, unchaining civil war and becoming dictator.

"His accusers of the right did not stop at that; at the meetings of the revenge party it was declared that he had opened the archives at an opportune moment in order to make sensational revelations at the chamber, while on the other hand the documents had been sold to the enemy and published simultaneously by the foreign press. For this reason it was decided to kill Erzberger at all costs.

"But the leader had a thick skin; three attempts were made against him without result.

"In 1921 Erzberger revealed himself a part of his plan; he related to whomever wanted to hear that in the autumn at the reopening of the reichstag he would have made important revelations. The anxiety of the right party was unbounded. What revelations could this man have made who knew everything? Military circles spread the news that Erzberger was on the point of making a treaty with the entente and that he had in his mind to sell the left bank of the Rhine on condition that the entente demanded no more money for reparations. Thus both parties would have been satisfied; instead of credit they would have had a real value in their hands, and the German people, with the exception of the militarists, would have been glad to put their finances in order and would have been easily consoled for the loss of the land, the mass of taxpayers would have been glad, and even the enemies would have supported his dictatorship.

"All this was not told in the German press, but whispered quietly in all the circles of the right. In August, 1921, Erzberger went to take a cure in the Black Forest and was to return to Berlin on September 5. Revelations were imminent, and the political circles of the right decided to put an end at all costs to this dangerous man, and orders were given to the secret military organization not to let the traitor escape.

"The rest is known; the assassin's bullet put an end to the life of the most interesting man in Germany. What was the mystery of this varied existence? The verdicts of cotemporaries contradict each other, so that the mystery remains. Perhaps one day, better documented history will reveal the secret of this man, who had so many secrets in his life."

Children as Hold-Ups.

LONDON.—The Westminster Gazette's Dublin correspondent says that Cardinal Logue, preaching at Haggardstown, Dundalk, yesterday, said he heard some time ago, and found that the rumor had foundation, that even schoolboys and schoolgirls were going about carrying revolvers.

"I wish to the Lord," said his eminence, "that there were a few strong men going about carrying birch rods to get at these people who are carrying revolvers. I have been told that they are holding up people, and I was told of one instance where those engaged in that work were hardly twelve years of age. If the parents and the priests do not look to this they will have a generation of young footpads nad robbers growing up in Ireland. I am told that the girls in some parts of the country are just as bad as the boys."

New Dance Fashions.

LONDON.—The Express says that new dances were submitted at the dancing congress in Paris, attended by the elite of the dancing masters of France, Britain, Holland, Belgium, Greece and other countries.

Among the new ballroom delights are: Passetto, a sort of Spanish waltz, lively, but dignified; onduladad, discreetly sinuous; Boston reverie, a modern fantasia; girondella, a clever combination of the hesitation waltz and the tango, with an easy gyratory movement; tsidsas, a tango, adapted from Greek popular dances, and abandon fox trot, accompanied by the rasping of a saw, which produces a most amusing effect.

Russia's Gold Supply Dwindling.

LONDON.—"Although conditions generally in south Russia are shockingly bad, and local industry and agriculture are almost entirely stagnant, the outlook is brighter than it was six months ago."

This is the view of the Novorossisk correspondent of the Federation of British Industries, who states that since January last quite a fleet of steamships have discharged cargoes at that port, the Daily News says.

"All foreign trade is still in the hands of the soviet government," the correspondent states, "and is controlled by a special government department, called the Vneshtorg, which maintains a close liaison with the All-Russian Co-operative Society.

"The grain cargoes and most of the flour landed at Novorossisk in recent months have been bought abroad for gold, which in some cases has been paid over by a representative of the Vneshtorg on board the ship before her cargo was discharged.

"The supply of gold, however, in government hands is steadily diminishing, as is the supply of goods capable of being used as barter."

The attitude to foreigners has considerably improved, and if free trade is again allowed things should, in the opinion of the correspondent, rapidly pick up, especially "as there is little doubt that comparatively large quantities of gold and silver are being hoarded and will be released only when the embargo on private trading is raised."